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Security Information

27 August 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Director, Intelligence Coordination
FROM: Chief, Intelligence Staff, OCI
SUBJECT: Assessment of [] Research
REFERENCE: Your Memorandum Same Subject, 25 August 1953

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1. Certain portions of subject studies have been quite helpful to OCI as background material and have been closely studied for this purpose. The remainder have been of secondary interest.

2. In particular, we have benefited from the studies on []

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[] The value of these papers derives mainly from the fact that they are generally based on factual research pertinent to current intelligence problems.

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3. Although we probably would have recommended expenditure of Agency funds to assist in these and similar studies, we believe we could have derived greater benefit from them had they been more specifically tailored to our needs. Each case would, of course, have varied depending on the amount of funds involved, the cost of accomplishing similar studies within the Agency, the quality of the personnel engaged in the outside research, and the importance of the subject to present OCI responsibilities.

4. In general, we feel that further outside research of the [] type might in certain cases be a sound investment from the Agency point of view if each project was carefully tailored to specific Agency requirements. However, we are forced to question the wisdom of a policy which would offer Agency support to projects instituted outside the Agency, conceived primarily against an academic rather than intelligence background and lacking effective

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control by competent persons thoroughly familiar with Agency requirements. In other words, we do not believe it fair to our own resources, or to the tax payers whom we are supposed to serve, to encourage university circles to dream up projects of primarily academic interest and then appeal for support from the intelligence community. We recognize, however, that if we try to exercise over academic research the rigid control which might be necessary to make it a paying proposition from the standpoint of our particular needs, we may find ourselves confronted with charges of encroaching on the sacred preserves of academic freedom.

5. We conclude, therefore, that [] and similar research projects merit our support only in cases where they are tailored to our needs and subject, at least in some degree, to our control. We are unable to say whether this control can effectively be exercised without stirring up an academic hornet's nest.

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Concur in above:



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29 Aug '13.